

## **Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council**

### **November 3, 2008 Meeting Summary**

The Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council (WRCAC) meeting was held on Monday November 3, 2008, in the ConCon Conference Room on the LL Level in the Atrium South Tower of Constitution Hall at 525 West Allegan Street in Lansing, Michigan from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Council members in attendance were Jon Allan, Sumedh Bahl, Dr. Bryan Burroughs, James Clift, Jon Coleman, Frank Ettawageshik, Michael Gregg, Jo Latimore, Mark Lemons, Peter Manning, Timothy Neumann, Michael Newman, Scott Piggott, Frank Ruswick, Paul Seelbach, Patricia Soranno, Donna Stine, and Bob Walther. Absent members were Craig Hoffman, Richard Slevatz and Samuel Wendling. Guests present were Jim Cleland, Gary Dawson, Abby Eaton, Brant Fisher, Patricia Fouchey, Fred Goldberg, Dave Hamilton, Andy LeBaron, David Lusch, Tammy Newcomb, Kristin Nelson, Jim Nicholas, Bob Pigg, Howard Reeves, Marc Smith and Mark Swartz. Before the start of the meeting those who did not order a lunch did so.

#### **Welcome – Housekeeping items – Agenda corrections**

Co-Chairman James Clift chaired the meeting. All present introduced themselves.

The WRCAC Sept 30 Oct 1 Minutes were approved and will be posted on the WRCAC webpage that is now available at: [www.michigan.gov/wrcac](http://www.michigan.gov/wrcac).

An addition to the agenda will be a report regarding the Texas In-Stream Flow Conference attended by James Clift.

Some members have had problems with the functioning of the assessment tool. Dave Hamilton said for 2 or 3 weeks after its October 1, 2008, release the tool would “shut down”. Mr. Hamilton thinks the problem causing this has been solved. The tool is available at [www.mi.wwat.org](http://www.mi.wwat.org)

#### **Subcommittee Breakouts**

James Clift gave a short description of the subcommittees. From 10:20 till 2:05 the Capacity vs. Actual Withdrawal Subcommittee, the Test and Evaluation of Assessment Tool Subcommittee and the Impacts on Lakes + + Subcommittee meet. The largest group of Capacity vs. Actual Use stayed in the ConCon Conference Room. The Brake Conference Room was given to the Test and Evaluation of Assessment Tool Subcommittee who spent their session time in the DEQ computer room on the sixth floor. The Impacts on Lakes + + Subcommittee went into the Hutchinson Conference Room. All three subcommittees had a working lunch.

#### **Subcommittees Reports**

Capacity vs. Actual Use Subcommittee Chairman Mike Gregg reported on what the subcommittee had been discussing. Resolving the capacity verses actual use issues will probably challenge the Department most. This group can give direction on how to proceed. Want to prioritize where we can close gaps / improve data. This will not be easy to fill in. November 20 will be the next Capacity vs. Actual Use Subcommittee meeting.

The Test and Evaluation of Assessment Tool Subcommittee Chairman Paul Seelbach gave a report on what the subcommittee had been discussing. Our charge is to report on the accuracy of the tool in April. Paul Seelbach said our work plan is to have a draft report by mid February. Our goal statement is to look over tool now that it is operation. Will look at geography to see if it matches. Will look at the tool's determination reports to see if they are over sensitive or under sensitive. Will try to determine the friendliness of tool. Is it usable to the group who it was intended for? Is the tool performing the task it was made to do? Will not do a statistical analysis. Paul Seelbach said the subcommittee will use a 3 pronged approach to come up with answers to their questions. The subcommittee will critique the Tool. 2) The subcommittee hopes to host / facilitate 10 different user groups. 3) Use the feedback from the tool.

The Impacts on Lakes + + Subcommittee Chairman Pat Soranno gave report on what the subcommittee had been discussing. Charged to study and make recommendations on whether and how the definition of adverse resource impact in section 32701 should be modified to more specifically address potential impacts to the Great lakes, inland lakes and other aquatic ecosystems due to large quantity withdrawals. What ecosystems we will cover: ponds, inland lakes and wetlands. Discussed what process we would use: 1) find / define ecosystems; 2) To classify lakes; 3) develop ARI relationships to changes in water level and groundwater input into lakes. There are currently wetland classifications out there; we will evaluate which will be most useful. Don't have the fish metric as we have for streams, so will come up with other metric. Need to evaluate what data is out there. The next Impacts on Lakes + + subcommittee meeting will be November 18.

#### **Wrap up 2:45 – 2:50**

The Interdisciplinary Solutions to Instream Flow Problems Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas on October 7 – 9, 2008. James Clift reported that the 4 day conference was very interesting, very diverse. This conference was the first time brought in advocates not just regulators. Had over 500 attendees. The In-Stream Flow Council has been doing problem solving for awhile. We are behind the curve but the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool has put Michigan out there. Most of the information regarding the conference is on their website of <http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/> under the FLOW 2008 Conference Tab along the left side of the page.

#### **Next Meetings Locations and Dates 2:50 – 3:00**

December 2, 2008, Tuesday at the Amway Grand hosted by Scott Piggott.

January 6, 2009, Tuesday in the Lansing area hosted by Mike Newman.

Starting on Friday February 6, 2009, the WRCAC 2009 Meetings will be held on the first Friday's of the month except for July and September which will be held on the second Friday.